

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,594

Examiner

JAMES C. KERVEROS

Applicant(s)

NADEAU-DOSTIE ET AL.

Art Unit

2117

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed with the RCE on 9/6/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8-29 and 31-56. Claims renumbered 1-54.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

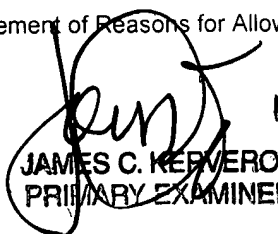
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JAMES C. KERVEROS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/6/2007 has been entered.

This is a Notice of Allowance in response to the Amendment filed with the RCE on 9/6/2007.

Claims 1-56 were previously pending in the Application.

Claims 7 and 30 are cancelled.

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) to CANADA 2,414,632, filed 12/18/2002. The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/690,594 on 10/23/2003.

The drawings, Replacement Sheets 4-6 received on March 5, 2004, are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 8-29 and 31-56 are allowed. Claims renumbered 1-54.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts of record taken alone or in combination fail to teach, anticipate, suggest or render obvious a method and a memory test controller for collecting memory failure information in real time while performing a test of memory embedded in a circuit recited in the independent claims 1 and 41, as currently amended, including among other limitations, "transferring off-circuit the failure summary from the circuit under control of a second clock concurrently with uninterrupted testing of a next column or row in sequence".

Also, independent claim 32 recites among other limitations, "classifying the detected failure according to predetermined failure types, and updating a failure mask register with results of comparisons of memory outputs and expected memory outputs".

Furthermore, independent claim 56 recites among other limitations, "failure type identification means responsive to a failure mask for classifying detected failures according to predetermined failure types, and counter means responsive to outputs of said failure type identification means for counting failures of each the predetermined types".

Also, claim 55 recites among other limitations, "a failure type identification circuit for determining a failure type of each detected failure, a failure type counter for each of said predetermined failure type, and a failure mask register for storing results of comparisons between each memory output and corresponding expected memory outputs".

Consequently, Claims 1-6, 8-29 and 31-56 are allowed over the prior arts of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES C. KERVEROS whose telephone number is (571) 272-3824. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques H. Louis-Jacques can be reached on (571) 272-4150. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

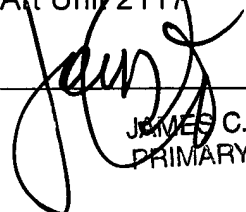
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Date: 4 January 2008
Office Action: Allowance

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Art Unit 2117

 1/4/2008
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